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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/717,809	11/21/2000	Joseph Mulavelil George	AUS9-2000-0551-US1	2104

7590 07/09/2003
Joseph R Burwell
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EXAMINER

ROBINSON, GRETA LEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

DATE MAILED: 07/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/717,809

Applicant(s)

GEORGE ET AL.

Examiner

Greta L. Robinson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because of the notations cited on form PTO 948 by the Draftsperson. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding independent claims 1, 10, 11, and 20 the following claim language is vague: "the metadata indicates database limitations" [note claim 1 lines 3-4; claim 10 lines 3-4; claim 11 lines 4-5; and claim 20 lines 6-7]. The meaning of the term "database limitations" is not clear. It is unclear as to whether the term is used as a parameter for

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certain database conditions or is referencing limitations of the database. Claims 2-9, 12-19, and 21-27 are rejected based upon dependency.

Regarding claims 6, 7, and 9 the following limitation is vague: "determining whether or not the object attribute data has characteristics that conflict with the database limitations indicated within the retrieved metadata; and in response to a determination ... modifying the object attribute" [see claim 6; claim 7; and claim 9]. Determining steps appear to be missing. How does the method determine whether or not the object attribute data has characteristics that conflict with the database?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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6. Claims 1-5, 11-15, 20, 22 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hattori et al. US Patent 6,539,388 B1.

Regarding claim 1, **Hattori et al.** teaches a method for storing object attribute data in a database [abstract], the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving metadata from the database, wherein the metadata indicates database limitations [note: metaindex management section element 440 and database 310 figure 15; figure 21];

retrieving semantic information from a mapping repository, wherein the semantic information indicates a manner in which object attribute data is stored in the database [figure 16; figure 38; column 22 lines 4-28; col. 30 lines 19-26; col. 17 line 47 through col. 18 line 41].

Hattori et al. teaches a data storage and retrieval system comprising storage means for storing data belonging to a predetermined category and definition data describing definitions of a structure and presentation form of the data.

7. Regarding claims 2-5:

(claim 2) wherein the database limitations are selected from a group comprising constraints, field constraints, and/or size limits [see: interattribute constraint figure 21; col. 18 lines 38-41; col. 26 lines 5-29; col. 30 lines 20-26].

(claim 3) storing the metadata using markup language to identify the metadata [see: col. 31 lines 57-59; col. 32 lines 46-49].

(claim 4) wherein the semantic information provides a mapping between object attributes and records in a relational database [see: col. 32 lines 46-49].

(claim 5) storing the semantic information using markup language to identify the semantic information [see: col. 31 lines 57-59; col. 32 lines 46-49].

8. The limitations of claims 11-15, 20-22 and 27 parallel method claims 1-5; therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cavanaugh III US Patent 5,809,507

Williamson et al. US Patent 6,122,641

Lyons et al. US Patent 6,484,180 B1

Sarkar US Patent 6,418,448 B1

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta L. Robinson whose telephone number is (703) 308-7565. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are

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(703)746-7239 for regular communications and (703)746-5657 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Greta Robinson
Primary Examiner
July 2, 2003



GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER